

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A biological process for the synthesis of shape, size and polymorph controlled oxide nanoparticles, which process comprises incubating a wet fungus or fungal extract with an aqueous metal salt solution ~~of a metal salt~~ to obtain a biomass, separating the biomass and filtering ~~the oxide nanoparticles therefrom~~ from the biomass.
2. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the incubation of the wet fungus~~[[/]]~~ or fungal extract with the metal salt solution is carried out at a temperature ~~in the range of~~ ranging from 15 °C to 40 °C and for a period ~~in the range of~~ 1 to 3 days.
3. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biomass is filtered using a ~~minimum 1 micron pore size filter~~ having a pore size of at least 1 micron to obtain the oxide nanoparticles.
4. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of chlorides, nitrates, oxalates and sulfates.
5. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fungus is used in whole cell form, wet solid mass or fungal extract.
6. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temperature for incubation ~~is in the range of~~ ranges from 23 °C - ~~to~~ 33 °C.
7. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the temperature for incubation ~~is in the range of~~ ranges from 25 °C - ~~to~~ 29 °C.
8. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the concentration of the metal salt ~~in the~~ solution is not less than 1mM.

9. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus/ or fungal extract is used in an amount of from 10 to 60 mgs.

10. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium sp.*, *Trichothecium sp.*, *Verticillium sp.*, *Cloridium sp.*, *Aspergillus sp.*, *Cephalophora sp.*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Helicostylum sp.*

11. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal salt comprises a ~~metal from the~~ transition metal ~~group~~.

12. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Si and Zn.